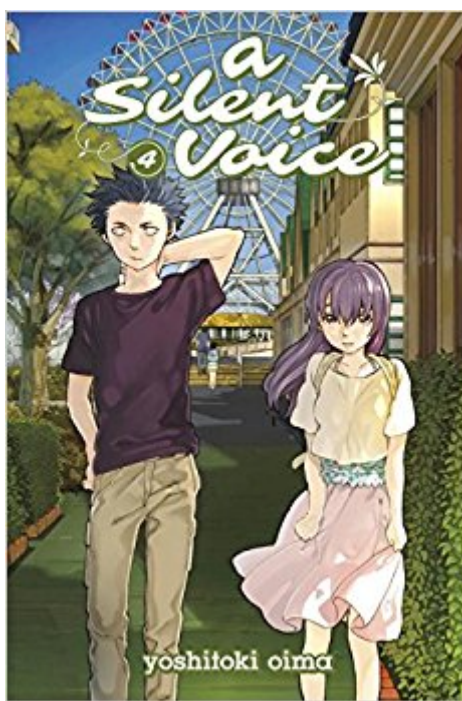


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A Silent Voice 4



Synopsis

WORDS OF REASSURANCE Â Once upon a time, Shoya was terribly cruel to Shoko, his elementary school classmate who couldnâ™t hear. To make up for his past sins, Shoya has devoted himself to repaying the debt of happiness he owes. So when Shoko faces a romantic setback, Shoya assembles some familiar faces from their past for a trip to the amusement park that may just change things for Shoya, too.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When Tomohiro asks Yuzuru if he can use her camera for his project she says yes, But under one condition, That he takes her to place to have fun and that's at the Amusement Park, Which was Naoka's idea. So now Shoya, Miyoko, Shoko, Satoshi, Tomohiro, Noaka, Yuzuru and Miki will set out to have a day to remember. On the roller coaster Miyoko sits next to Shoya, In the past she tells him that this ride scared her back then, After she enjoys the ride, Her hair looks like Shoya's. Shoko was the last person off the roller coaster and her legs won't stop shaking, Shoya laughs at her and asks if she's okay. Shoya really enjoyed being at the Amusement Park until he sees a former friend that was set up by Naoka. Naoka and Shoko will have a very serious conversation on the Ferris Wheel, Even though Naoka does most of the talking and does not hold nothing back at all and tells Shoko what she really thinks of her and the last words she uses are quite unforgettable and violent. Naoka will also say some things that are related from what Shoya said back in Volume 1 to Shoko that triggered their fight back then. Naoka has no problem telling Shoko what she thinks of her, But she can't tell Shoya how she feels about him. One day Shoya notices Yuzuru from a distance where

they feed the fish, She's standing alone under a waterfall and tears are falling down her face, Shoya has never seen her cry before. When she comes to talk to Shoya she acts like nothing happened. Shoya knows something's wrong and takes her to get some fast food, She doesn't eat much and then tells Shoya a person that she loves went to a very far place away. After they eat Shoya asks if he can walk her to wherever she's going, She lets him walk with her and when they get there Shoya now knows what happened. Later on Shoya will show Yuzuru that she will never be alone again. You will read about how bad Shoko's father and their parents were to Shoko's mom, She had to be strong with the help of their Grandmother. Yuzuru and Naoka have become strong characters just like Shoya and Shoko. Each book just keeps getting better and better. These books are new but doesn't come factory sealed. Ages 13 and higher can read this.

The story takes some good turns in this volume, and goes some unexpected places. One of the things I like about this volume is how it develops a couple of characters, one who's shown up a few times and the other who has been mentioned but hasn't appear until now. The reader finally meets Shoko's grandmother, both in the present and in flashbacks, and she's someone well worth meeting, a woman of strength and character. Shoko and Yuzuru's mother hasn't always come off as a sympathetic character, but here we learn more about her and the things that have happened to her, and come to understand her better. We also find out why we haven't seen Shoko's father, and what we learn says nothing good about him. This is an intense volume, and not always comfortable. The ways the characters speak about themselves and each other is more blunt than is usual, in fiction or in real life. But that's also one reason that a story that could have become a typical feel-good romance becomes something special. There is plenty of humor, but also strongly emotional moments, too. I can strongly recommend giving *A Silent Voice* as a whole a shot, and this Volume 4 is a good addition to the story.

A Silent Voice, Vol. 4 begins with the revelation that Shoko was trying to tell Shoya that she loves him in Vol. 3, but since she's Deaf, she can't speak very well, and Shoya doesn't understand her. Meanwhile, Tomohiro is dead set on making his movie, and he wants Shoya to do a lot of the leg work. To do this, Shoya has to start making friends again. An "X" appears on everyone's face except a few, and slowly, those Xs go away, signifying Shoya becoming more social again. A new group of friends (or fake friends?) gathers together, and they go to the amusement park. This book is excellent at what it does. The characters grow, and the situations are totally believable. I did find that Naoka's character seemed a little forced as an antagonist, and much of the first half of the book

is focused on her. I think the book is a little constrained by the tankōbon format, as *A Silent Voice* is meant to be read as it comes out in magazine form, and not book-by-book. I definitely liked this book better than *A Silent Voice*, Vol. 3. I wasn't sure if I'd keep reading, but now I definitely will.

****1/2

I've done my best to keep this a spoiler-free, short review -- the equivalent of the blurb on a book's back cover. *A Silent Voice* is the translation of the Japanese manga series *Koe no Katachi* (romaji: *Koe no Katachi*). The subject matter involves a deaf student, and some idiosyncrasies used to convey deaf communication translated extremely well to English written text. At some points it is as if you can hear what deaf people experience. You don't need to like manga to appreciate *A Silent Voice*, but you do need to read the books in order. You can expect romantic tension and strong emotional connections with the characters. The story concerns a protagonist who made some poor decisions as a child (what child doesn't make poor decisions?) that had repercussions, even if he doesn't fully realize their weight. If you decide to give it a shot, you'll be glad you checked it out, and sad when it's over. If you love manga, or if you've never read manga; if you love emotional moments in movies, or if you want to begin to understand the emotional side of yourself; if you've been bullied, or if you've been the bully: this manga series is for you.

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